



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

### ***Wild Horse Wind Power Project Notice of Availability of a Potential Site Study Report***

In July 2003, Wind Ridge Power Partners LLC (Wind Ridge) requested the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) conduct a Potential Site Study for the Wild Horse Wind Power Project, a proposed wind power generation project near the city of Kittitas, in Kittitas County.

EFSEC is the state agency responsible for siting and permitting the construction and operation of major energy facilities in the State of Washington. 100% renewable energy projects such as the Wild Horse Wind Power Project can choose to receive certification through EFSEC. EFSEC is comprised of a Chair appointed by the Governor, and representatives from five state agencies. Local governments where projects are proposed to be sited, also appoint members to the Council to represent local interests.

#### **The Potential Site Study: A Pre-Application Analysis**

The purpose of a **Potential Site Study** is to identify environmental, health and safety, social, or regulatory issues related to locating a proposed major energy facility at a proposed site. In addition to this initial **environmental assessment**, a Potential Site Study will assist the applicant in knowing what environmental and other impacts must be addressed and the level of information that must be included in an application for site certification to EFSEC. This information is developed as a **criteria document** that will be used by Wind Ridge to prepare an application that will satisfy the Council's filing requirements and those of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

The Potential Site Study also provides for consultation with **state, local, and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations**, in discussing the possible effects of this proposed project. This early participation of interested stakeholders assists an applicant in developing an Application for Site Certification (ASC) that avoids or mitigates potential impacts, while ensuring that adequate information is available to assess a proposal.

The Potential Site Study for the Wild Horse Wind Power Project has been completed by EFSEC's independent consultant Jones and Stokes, and a **Potential Site Study Report** was submitted to the Council on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003. This report documents the coordination activities that were conducted to contact interested agencies, and includes a project description and summary of potential environmental impacts, and the Criteria Document to be used by Wind Ridge in the preparation of their Application to the Council.

#### ***The Potential Site Study Report is available free of charge to interested persons***

To request a copy please contact EFSEC at:

EFSEC  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia WA, 98504-3172,  
Phone: (360) 956-2121  
Fax: (360) 956-2158,

or [efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov)

The report is also available on EFSEC's web site at:

**[www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov)**

Additional information about the PSS and EFSEC's review process is available by contacting:

Irina Makarow  
Siting Manager  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Phone: (360) 956-2047

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## What's Next: Application Submittal to the Council

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Based on the Criteria Document prepared as a result of the Potential Site Study, the applicant, Wind Ridge Power Partners, would complete any additional studies suggested by the Potential Site Study and would prepare the application. EFSEC expects that Wind Ridge will submit their Application for Site Certification (application) to the Council in late 2003 or early 2004.

Submittal of the application by Wind Ridge to the Council will initiate the formal EFSEC application review process, which will include:

- Notification of persons and organizations on the project mailing list that the application has been filed with the Council;
- Distribution of the application to state agencies and other stakeholders for review;
- Making copies of the application available for public reference at local libraries.

Within 60 days of receipt of the application, the Council will hold an **Initial Public Meeting** in the vicinity of the proposed project. The initial public meeting will serve to inform the public of the proposed project and of the Council's review process, and to invite the public to comment on the issues to be examined in an environmental impact statement.

### FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Once an application is submitted, EFSEC's review process will include additional opportunities for public comment and involvement such as

- The Land-Use Consistency Hearing
- The Draft EIS Public Written Comments and Hearing\*
- The Adjudicative Public Witness Testimony Hearings\*
- Written Comments to EFSEC

In order to receive notification of dates and locations of the meetings listed above, please contact the EFSEC office to be added to the project mailing list:

- By phone at (360) 956-2121 or
- By e-mail at [efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@ep.cted.wa.gov)

## The Wild Horse Wind Power Project

The Wild Horse Wind Power Project would be located at Whiskey Dick Mountain just north of I-90 between the towns of Kittitas and Vantage, approximately 10 miles east of the town of Kittitas. The Project would be located on the high ridge tops in an area of open rangeland that is currently zoned as Forest and Range. The property would be leased from private land owners and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The Project could potentially consist of as few as 83 large wind turbines, each with 3 MW generator nameplate capacity, installed for a Project capacity of up to 249 MW, or as many as 125 smaller wind turbines each having 1 MW generator nameplate capacity with an installed Project capacity of 125 MW.

The Project would include other elements such as access roads, underground and overhead electrical lines, one or two grid interconnection substations, one or two step-up substations, one or two feeder lines running from the on-site step-up substations to the interconnection substations, an operations and maintenance (O&M) center and associated supporting infrastructure and facilities. The Project has transmission and interconnection requests under review with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Puget Sound Energy (PSE). For interconnection with PSE, the Project feeder line would run south from an on-site PSE step-up substation to the PSE interconnect substation and would run mainly along existing roads on private land for approximately 7.25 miles and .25 miles on BLM land. For the interconnection with BPA, the Project feeder line would run west five miles from the on-site BPA step-up substation to the existing BPA Shultz to Vantage 500 kV line corridor. From this point the line would run north within and parallel to the existing BPA corridor for approximately 11 miles to the interconnection substation near the existing Shultz substation.